

Appl. No. 09/891,238
Amdt. Dated July 27, 2004
Reply to Office action of May 6, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P13589-US2
EUS/J/P/04-2057

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 11 and cancelled claims 2, 9-10, 12 and 19-20. Claims 1, 3-8, 11 and 13-18 remain pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 3-8 and 13-18.

The Examiner objected to claims 2 and 12 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but indicated such claims would also be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. The Applicant has amended independent claim 1 and independent claim 11 to include the allowable subject matter of claims 2 and 12, respectively. Accordingly, claims 1 and 11 are also now allowable.

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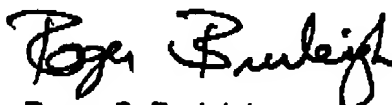
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1, 3-8, 11 and 13-18.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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